



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Public Instruction  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

\*\*\***NEWS RELEASE**\*\*\*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## 4K enrollment jumps 22.4 percent in one year

MADISON—Early learning opportunities, the foundation for educational success, are reaching more of the state's children as 37 school districts added 4-year-old kindergarten (4K) for the 2008-09 school year.

"Every child is born loving to learn. Starting our youngest students off right with a quality 4K program is a first step in closing the achievement gap," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. "Districts in Wisconsin have embraced the research that shows time and again that quality 4K programs make a difference."

A total of 319 school districts in Wisconsin are offering 4K this year. These programs currently serve 33,976 children, enrollment growth of 22.4 percent over last year. Eighty-nine of Wisconsin's 4K programs use a fairly new concept to provide service. Those programs partner with child care, Head Start, or preschool programs to provide 4K through a community approach.

Early childhood programs prepare youngsters to learn and to successfully transition into school. The programs provide educational and economic benefit regardless of family income, but specifically bridge the effects of poverty by allowing children from economically disadvantaged families to gain a more equal footing with their peers. Reports also show that young children attending quality early education programs do better in school, and they have fewer referrals for special education. Retention rates are lower, meaning fewer students are held back a grade. Additionally, those who attend quality early childhood programs are more likely to graduate from high school, work, and avoid incarceration.

(more)

### Growth in 4K — 2001-02 to 2008-09

School Year	Number of Districts	Number of Students
2001-02	166	14,483
2002-03	180	16,051
2003-04	189	16,957
2004-05	208	18,652
2005-06	234	20,959
2006-07	257	24,078
2007-08	283	27,759
2008-09	319	33,976

**NOTE:** While 37 districts added 4K in the 2008-09 school year, the net increase is 36.

“Quality 4K programs put children on an educational path to reach their full potential,” Burmaster said. “Investing in our youngest students makes real economic sense.”

Burmaster noted that much of this year’s 4K growth was due to support from Gov. Jim Doyle and the Legislature for 4K through state-funded grants that were part of the 2007-09 state budget. Several districts benefited from 4K start-up grants in 2008-09 and will receive an estimated \$700 per student to defray the costs of implementing 4K through a community approach. Demand for funding far outpaced the \$3 million allocated for the new grant program, with funds prorated based on official enrollment counts. Under the grant-funded community approach, school districts form a council or advisory group and collaborate with a Head Start, licensed group-based child care, or preschool center to provide 4K services.

“The community approach model of providing 4K services recognizes the shared responsibility for providing quality early care and education,” Burmaster said. “This strategy is growing quickly from just three districts using a community approach in the 2001-02 school year to 89 this year. It makes sense for school districts to partner with their communities to provide vital 4K services to children and their families.

“I commend Governor Doyle for his support for 4K and am delighted to co-chair his State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care,” Burmaster added.

# # #

**NOTES:** A list of districts providing 4-year-old kindergarten (4K) during the 2008-09 school year follows. Those with an asterisk newly implemented 4K programming this year. Those in bold are using a community approach to provide 4K. This news release is available electronically at [http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008\\_178.pdf](http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_178.pdf). Additional information about 4K in Wisconsin is available on the Department of Public Instruction website <http://dpi.wi.gov/ec/ec4yrpag.html>.

# Districts Offering 4-Year-Old Kindergarten

**2008-09 School Year**

## **A-B**

Abbotsford  
Adams-Friendship Area  
Albany  
Algoma  
Alma  
Alma Center  
Almond-Bancroft  
Amery  
Arcadia  
Argyle

## **\* Ashwaubenon**

Athens  
Auburndale  
Augusta

## **\* Bangor**

Barneveld  
**Barron Area**  
**Beaver Dam**  
Beecher-Dunbar-Pembine  
Belmont Community  
**Beloit**

## **\* Beloit Turner**

Benton  
Birchwood  
Black Hawk

## **\* Black River Falls**

**Blair-Taylor**  
**Bloomer**  
Bowler  
Boyceville Community  
Brillion  
Brodhead

## **\* Brown Deer**

Bruce  
Butternut

## **C-D**

**Cadott Community**  
Cambria-Friesland  
**Cameron**

## **\* Campbellsport**

Cashton  
Cassville  
Cedar Grove-Belgium Area  
Chetek  
Chilton

## **Chippewa Falls Area**

Clayton  
Clear Lake  
Clinton Community  
**Clintonville**  
Cochrane-Fountain City

## **Colby**

Coleman  
Colfax

## **\* Columbus**

Cornell  
Crandon  
Crivitz  
Cuba City  
Cudahy  
Cumberland  
De Soto Area

## **\* Deerfield Community**

Delavan-Darien  
Denmark  
Dodgeland  
Dodgenville  
Drummond Area  
Durand

## **E-G**

East Troy Community  
**Eau Claire Area**  
Edgar  
**Edgerton**  
**Elcho**  
**Eleva-Strum**  
Elk Mound Area  
Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah

## **\* Ellsworth Community**

Elmwood  
Erin  
Fall River  
Fennimore Community  
Flambeau  
Florence  
**Fond du Lac**  
Fontana J8

## **\* Fort Atkinson**

Fox Point J2  
Frederic  
Freedom Area

## **\* Galesville-Ettrick-Trempealeau**

Geneva J4  
Gillett  
Gilman  
Gilmanton  
Glendale-River Hills  
Glenwood City  
Glidden  
Goodman-Armstrong  
Granton Area  
Grantsburg

## **\* Green Bay Area**

Green Lake  
Greendale  
Greenfield  
Greenwood  
Gresham

## **H-L**

Hamilton  
**Hartland-Lakeside J3**

## **\* Hayward Community**

Herman #22  
Highland  
Hilbert  
Hillsboro  
**Holmen**  
Howards Grove  
Hurley  
Hustisford  
Independence  
Iola-Scandinavia  
Iowa-Grant

## **\* Ithaca**

## **\* Janesville**

## **\* Jefferson**

**\* Johnson Creek**  
Juda  
Kaukauna Area  
**Kenosha**  
Kewaskum  
Kewaunee  
Kickapoo Area  
**Kiel Area**  
Kimberly Area  
**Kohler**

## **La Crosse**

La Farge  
Lac du Flambeau #1  
Ladysmith-Hawkins  
Lake Geneva J1  
Lake Holcombe  
**Lake Mills Area**  
Lancaster Community

## **Laona**

Lena  
Linn J4  
Linn J6  
Little Chute Area

## **Lomira**

Loyal

## **\* Luck**

## **M-N**

Manawa  
**Manitowoc**  
Maple Dale-Indian Hill  
Marathon City  
Marinette  
Marion  
Marshall  
**Marshfield**  
**Mauston**  
Medford Area  
Mellen  
Menasha  
**Menomonee Falls**

## **\* Menomonie Area**

Mercer  
Merton Community  
**Milwaukee**  
Mineral Point  
Minocqua J1  
Mishicot  
Mondovi  
**Monona Grove**  
**Monroe**  
**Montello**  
Monticello

## **\* Mosinee**

Necedah Area  
Neillsville  
**Nekoosa**  
Neosho J3

New Auburn	<b>* Phillips</b>	Sevastopol	Turtle Lake
<b>New Glarus</b>	Pittsville	Sharon J11	Twin Lakes #4
New Holstein	Platteville	Shawano	<b>Two Rivers</b>
New Lisbon	Plum City	<b>Sheboygan Area</b>	Unity
<b>New Richmond</b>	<b>Plymouth</b>	<b>* Sheboygan Falls</b>	<b>V-W</b>
North Crawford	<b>Port Edwards</b>	Shell Lake	Viroqua Area
<b>North Fond du Lac</b>	<b>* Port Washington-</b>	Shiocton	Wabeno Area
North Lakeland	<b>Saukville</b>	Shorewood	Walworth J1
Northern Ozaukee	<b>Portage Community</b>	Shullsburg	Washburn
<b>* Northland Pines</b>	Potosi	Silver Lake J1	Waterloo
<b>* Northwood</b>	Prairie du Chien Area	Siren	<b>Watertown</b>
Norwalk-Ontario-	Prairie Farm	Slinger	Waukesha
Wilton	Prentice	Solon Springs	<b>Wausau</b>
Norway J7	<b>* Prescott</b>	Somerset	Wausaukee
<b>O-R</b>	Princeton	South Milwaukee	<b>Wautoma Area</b>
<b>Oak Creek-Franklin</b>	<b>Racine</b>	<b>South Shore</b>	Wauwatosa
Oakfield	Randolph	Southern Door County	Wauzeka-Steuben
Oconomowoc Area	Random Lake	Southwestern Wisconsin	Webster
Oconto	Reedsville	Sparta Area	West Allis
Oconto Falls	<b>Rhineland</b>	Spencer	<b>* West De Pere</b>
<b>* Omro</b>	Rib Lake	<b>* Spring Valley</b>	Westby Area
<b>Onalaska</b>	<b>Rice Lake Area</b>	<b>Stanley-Boyd Area</b>	<b>Westfield</b>
<b>* Oostburg</b>	Richfield J1	<b>Stevens Point Area</b>	Weston
Osceola	Richland	Stockbridge	Weyauwega-Fremont
<b>Oshkosh Area</b>	Richmond	<b>* Stoughton Area</b>	<b>Weyerhaeuser Area</b>
Osseo-Fairchild	Rio Community	Stratford	Wheatland J1
Owen-Withee	<b>Ripon Area</b>	Sturgeon Bay	Whitefish Bay
Palmyra-Eagle Area	River Ridge	<b>Superior</b>	Whitehall
Pardeeville Area	Riverdale	Suring	<b>Whitewater</b>
Park Falls	Rosendale-Brandon	<b>T-U</b>	Whitnall
Parkview	Rosholt	Thorp	Wild Rose
<b>* Pecatonica Area</b>	Royall	Three Lakes	Williams Bay
Pepin Area	<b>S</b>	Tigerton	Winter
<b>* Peshtigo</b>	<b>* Saint Croix Falls</b>	Tomahawk	Wisconsin Heights
<b>* Pewaukee</b>	Saint Francis	Trevor-Wilmot	<b>Wisconsin Rapids</b>
<b>* Phelps</b>	<b>* Sauk Prairie</b>	Consolidated	Wonewoc-Union Center
	Seneca	<b>Tri-County Area</b>	Woodruff J1

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